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# The "Yallerhammers"

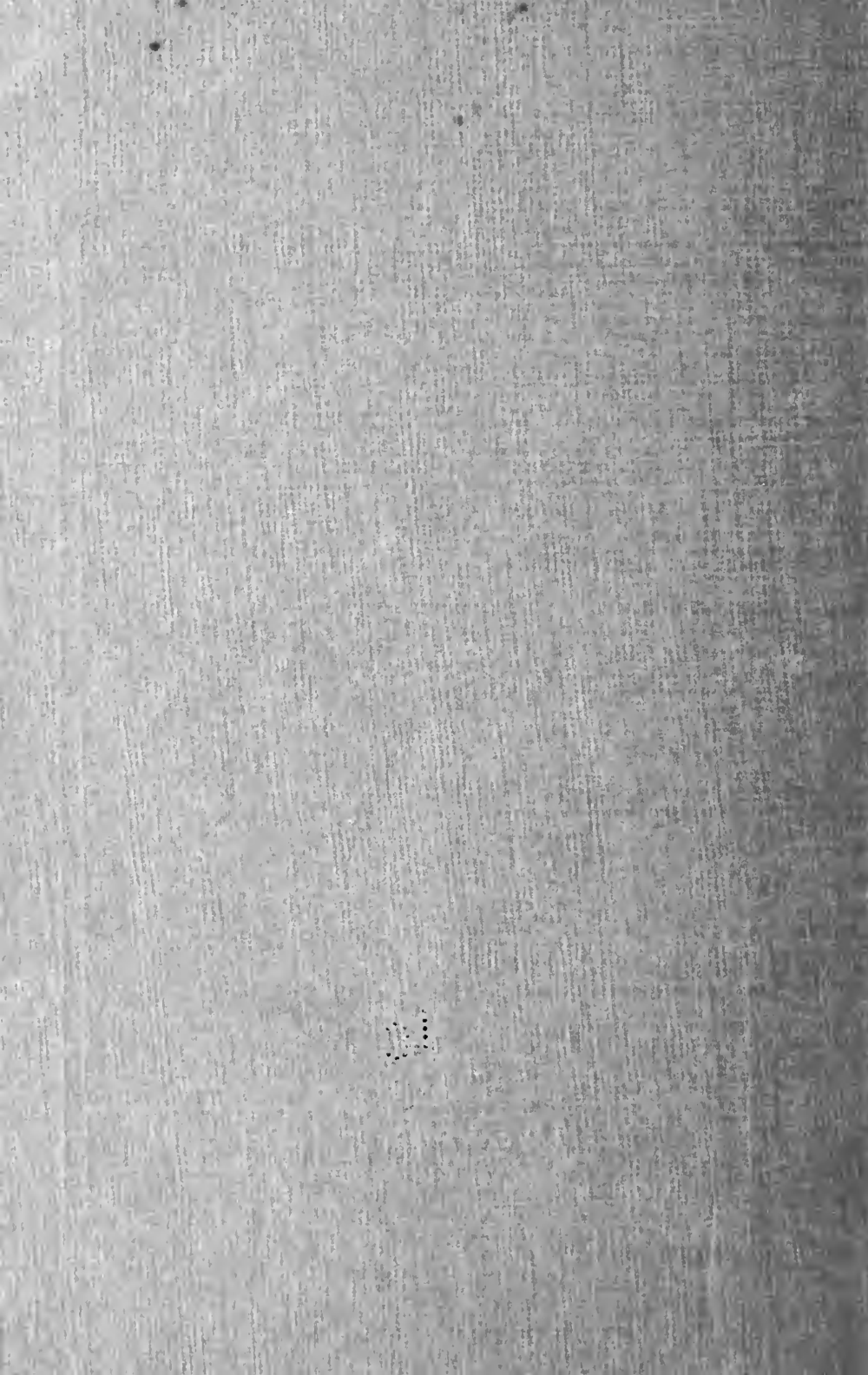
of THE STATE OF ALABAMA



Compliments of  
Morgan S Gilmer

Montgomery Ala

Not in Word, but in Deed  
Is the Little Yallerhammer's Creed





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## The Borning of the "Yallerhammer Idea"

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Born and reared in the country, and coming to the city after I was fifty years of age, there was nothing that so impressed me with the city life, as the disposition to let go the grip on the traditions, sentiment and customs of long ago.

I realize the necessity of any people lopping off the things that are not worth while, but when it comes to letting slip the things that "exalteth a nation" then I am sure there should be some endeavor made to get back into the olden paths.

My life of three score years and two, had taught me that all reforms to be permanent, must be stamped into the hearts and minds of the children, so benefitting from this lesson, I looked about me for a nucleus, and what better selection could I make, than to take my seed corn from that stock of men, whose glory and honor were their women and children.

And when that crux period came into the lives of themselves and their country, they found that this glory and honor ~~and~~ was returned a hundred fold.

Fifty years ago, the men of this South-land looked upon women as the highest ideal of a pure and holy life, and saw to it that her name and fame were kept inviolate, but today this has all but passed away, and we find men and women meeting in the common arena of life, vieing only as to who can wring most of the gold out of this "mad money wrangle."

With this new creed of commercialism coming to the front, we find the old time honor and deference paid to women, and that beautiful courtesy of the women and children is fast becoming a thing of the past.

So from the loins of these men of fifty years since I have selected my bunch of little "Yallerhammers," tiny

models, fresh from the hands of the Great Master Builder of the Universe; ideals that our Lord Himself hath declared to be "Types of the Kingdom of Heaven."

And it shall be my purpose and my aim to simply teach these little ones, those things that made the men and women of the Old South the wonder and admiration of the world; and when the battle of life is over with me, and the taps are about to be sounded, no higher tribute do I desire than that every one of these little ones may say that the lessons taught them by me had made of them better boys or better men, better girls or better women.

### THE SEED CORN FROM WHICH "THE YALLER-HAMMERS" GREW.

In the spring of 1905 there would come to the home of Morgan S. Gilmer at 302 Alabama Street in the city of Montgomery, a few little girls for the purpose of gathering and stringing the old Four-O-Clock flower that grew there is such profusion; this coming together soon grew into the formation of the "Four-O-Clock" club with the following members and the following constitution:

NAME: "THE FOUR-O-CLOCK CLUB."

OBJECT: To string Four-O-Clocks, and to make each other happy.

### MEMBERSHIP.

All of the active members shall be girls, not over twelve years of age. And no one will be admitted to this club who chews gum, or who uses bad language.

### MEETINGS.

The members will meet promptly at six o'clock, and remain in session until all of the Four-O-Clocks are strung, and all of the ice cream is eaten.

### DUES.

There will be an admission fee of three kisses, which are to be paid promptly to the Honorary President.

## OFFICERS.

There shall be one Honorary President who will be elected for life. One active President, who shall be elected on the first Monday in May, and shall serve for one year, and it shall be her duty to see that all of the members faithfully keep the rules, and that no rude or bad girl is to become a permanent member of this club.

## FINES.

Any member violating any of these rules will be made to stand in the corner with her mouth poked out for ten minutes.

## MOTTO:

"Who cannot find God in the heart of a child, will never know Him within Cathedral walls."

## OUR PRAYER.

"Guide Thou our feet in Holy ways,  
Shine on us in our darkest days,  
Uphold us till our life is past,  
Then bring us safe to Heaven at last."

## NAMES OF MEMBERS.

MORGAN S. GILMER, Honorary President.

OCTAVIA HOLT, Active President.

May Steiner

Celia Stratford

Erline Minderhout

Berta Holt

Maxine Mayer

Dorothy Hannon

In October, 1906, the Honorary President moved from this the Four-O-Clock house to 407 High Street, and here there were no Four-O-Clocks and no room to grow them, so they were confronted with the problem of what to do with the Four-O-Clock club, as it would never do to have such a club and no Four-O-Clocks to string.



Not being willing to abandon their very pleasant meeting together, they *informally* decided to resolve themselves into the "Yallarhammer" club.

After adopting this name it was suggested that their membership be increased to thirteen—the number of the Confederate States—but to this they would not consent, contending that this was an unlucky number and was the cause of the unsuccessful effort of the South to maintain her independence. But it was decided to simply double this number making it twenty-six.

This informal organization was ever ready and willing to lend their aid and assistance to any appeal made to them for the old soldiers or for the cause which they contended for.

While these little children had always fought shy of any publicity, yet at times they were forced to do so in order to successfully accomplish their desired end.

Their first appearance before the public, was at the State Reunion held in Montgomery in 1907, and their unique appearance in the parade on that occasion created much enthusiasm (and again on Memorial Day they were given the special privilege of bestowing the Crosses of Honor upon twenty-six of the Veterans in the name of the several Chapters of the Daughters of the Confederacy.) At which time Edward Terry thus addressed the Veterans:

"My Dear Grand Fathers:

Because your Daughters have let us give you your Crosses of Honor, makes this the proudest day that has ever come into the lives of your little "Yallerhammer" Grand Children.

"And we want to tell you now, that when you have gone out from among us, and your Daughters and your Sons have been called to join you in the Great Beyond, that we are going to take up this task of keeping your graves and your memory green, and to teach the children of this Southland, that for all that was pure, for all that was noble and for all that was brave, this was the Confederate States soldier.

"And now with faces uplifted looking into that of our Heavenly Father, we pray to Him

'Guide Thou your feet in Holy ways,

Shine on you in your darkest days,  
 Uphold you 'till your life is past,  
 Then bring you safe to Heaven at last.' "

On the 13th day of February, 1908, (unlucky 13 again) the "Yallerhammers" were formally organized at the home of the Honorary President, 407 High Street, with the following Constitution and membership:

### CONSTITUTION.

This club shall be called the "YALLERHAMMERS" in honor and memory of the Alabama soldiers of the war of 1861 to 1865.

Its purpose shall be:

First. To teach its members and all the world, that for all that was noble, for all that was pure, and for all that was brave, this was the Confederate States soldier.

Second. To teach the old time honesty, the old time truthfulness, and the old time nobility and politeness that made the old time man and woman of Alabama loved and honored wherever known.

Third. To make boys that would be boys among men but men among boys.

Fourth. To make little girls that will be little girls among women but little women among girls.

### MEMBERS.

All members of this club except the charter members, must be descendants of a Confederate Soldier, and be not over fourteen years old. The number of its members shall never exceed twenty-six.

### OFFICERS.

Its officers shall be a President, elected for life, and he shall appoint a secretary who shall hold at his pleasure.

### MEETINGS.

Our meetings shall be held at the call of the President.

## DUES.

Our dues shall be paid in the old time coin of the South, love to each other, polite and courteous to every one, especially to older people.

## OUR DAILY RULE OF LIVING.

"To love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our mind, our neighbors as ourselves."

## OUR DAILY PRAYER.

Guide Thou our feet in Holy ways,  
Shine on us in our darkest days,  
Uphold us 'til our life is past,  
Then bring us safe to Heaven at last."

## ROLL OF MEMBERS.

*Honorary.*

Mrs. Morgan S. Gilmer, Mother Yallerhammer  
Genl. Geo. P. Harrison, Opelika, Ala.  
Mrs. W. A. Gause, Memphis, Tenn.  
Miss Mary Perkins, Memphis, Tenn.

## CHARTER MEMBERS.

## MORGAN S. GILMER. Life President.

- 1 Majore Allen
- 2 Mary Burnett
- 3 Thomas Cohoon
- 4 Alice Chapman
- 5 Warren Dent
- 6 William Crist
- 7 Mary Gilchrist
- 8 Dorothy Hannon
- 9 Octavia Holt
- 10 Berta Holt
- 11 Louise Johnson
- 12 Theodosia Lee
- 13 Maxine Mayer

- 14 Erline Minderhout
- 15 Katherine Powell
- 16 Allen Reynolds
- 17 Jordan Reynolds
- 18 Anie Spann
- 19 May Steiner
- 20 Celia Stratford
- 21 Annie Terry
- 22 Edward Terry
- 23 James Wade
- 24 Annie Whaley
- 25 Janice Weil
- 26 Ernest Wilkinson

This club having been declared to have a fixed standing among the Confederate organizations of the State of Alabama, by Dr. Thomas M. Owen the Director of Archives, added new zeal to its membership.

Each of the little ones striving to their utmost to live up to the very spirit of their constitution, and so pronounced were they along these lines, that it became to be a recognized fact, to be a "Yallerhammer" meant to be truthful, honest and polite. Eager always to hear the plea of the needy, ready always to do what their little hands and hearts could do for the cause they loved so well.

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At a meeting held under the auspices of Camp Lomax to devise ways and means for the securing of funds to build a Memorial Arch for the members of this Camp, the "Yallerhammers" pledged the expense of chiseling the names of twenty-six Veterans of this Memorial Arch.

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The general Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans, coming on in Memphis, Tenn., on the 8-9-10 of June 1909, they wished to represent the "Yallerhammer" soldier of Alabama.

And in order that they might be allowed to do so, a letter was written to Genl. John H. McDowell, chief Marshall of that Reunion, requesting that a position be given them, the correspondence that follows is fully explained in his letter after the Reunion was over.

That we were arranging to have these little ones to par-

ticipate in that parade, in some way came to be known to Mr. Stark, Chairman of the floral parade which was to come off the first day of that Reunion, who immediately wrote Mr. Gilmer, asking him to join with his "Yallerhammers" in this parade.

This invitation was heartily appreciated, but we were compelled to decline, on account of not being able to bear the expense of such a float, and so wrote Mr. Stark.

This letter being turned over to Mrs. W. A. Gause the Director of one of the Children chapters, she assumed the responsibility for all expense, and proposed to furnish at a cost of sixty dollars a float that would do credit to Memphis and at the same time through the "Yallerhammers" honor the Alabama soldier. Of course such generosity could not be ignored by the "Yallerhammers" and notified Mrs. Gause of their acceptance.

True to their promise, at the appointed time and place for the floral parade, the "Yallerhammers" found their nest of yellow chrysanthemums, and it was soon filled with the little ones, but as Mrs. Gause had been unable to carry out her idea of having a "Yallerhammer" bird made of yellow flowers, she had to substitute a "YALLERHAMMER" of the GREY variety, a substitution not at all objectionable to the old yallerhammer.

This nest was drawn by four large black horses, which were led by a footman for each horse, with the yellow trimmings and trappings of the Alabama "Yallerhammers."

This was indeed a pretty sight and one that was enjoyed by all who saw it.

But beautiful as it was it did not compare with the parade of the old Veterans.

Our wagonette, a new one, drawn by four magnificent greys, with the Alabama penant on each one, and from the wagonette on each side hung the banner, "A YALLERHAMMERS NEST."

We were assigned a position just in the rear of the Alabama sponser, and had just fairly commenced to move off in the main line of the parade, when the Assistant Marshalls, not knowing of the private agreement to allow the "Yallerhammers" a position, ordered them out of the line, and allowed the whole calvary division to pass on ahead of them.

By this time it had been discovered that they were not in the position assigned when immediately aids and marshalls were hurrying down the line bringing everything to a halt. This being done the Calvary division were ordered to open ranks allowing the "Yallerhammers" to pass through and thus regain their appointed position.

All the while, no one could fail to see as they looked out into the faces of these people that the "Yallerhammers" were the feature of the day.

They are now rounding out of Poplar into Main, and see that longing, eager, exultant look of that vast multitude of humanity as they crowd up to the very wheels rim of their wagonette, and then the simultaneous roar of "Hooray for the Yallerhammers," And from block to block this mighty acclaim, gathers more and more of the spirit, more and more of the feeling of this great throng of people, but listen, a great hush has fallen upon this sea of human beings, and we hear breaking out from this the "Yallerhammers" nest the angelic voices of these children as they sing "Tenting on the old camp ground."

And yet the crowning time is to come.

As this thin grey line of Veterans begin to double back on itself and pass each other in review. The first sight of these little ones, and recognize them as the Grandchildren of their companions of forty-five years ago, then once more do we hear that Rebel roar, not of the kind that means to do or to die, but a roar of gladness and exultation, and so furious did their demonstration become, that it was soon found necessary to station four policemen about to keep the old soldiers from pulling them all out of their nest, and from then until they turned out of line the "Yallerhammers" were strictly in it.

After the Reunion, Genl. McDowell had this to say in the Nashville Banner:

"During the civil war, the Alabama soldiers wore yellow stripes on their trousers, and the soldiers of the other States called the Alabamians "Yallerhammers" and when passing them would holler like a Yallerhammer.

Mr. Morgan S. Gilmer, of Montgomery, Ala., ornamented a wagonette for the Confederate parade during the recent Reunion at Memphis.

This wagonette was filled with Alabama girls ranging from eight to fifteen years of age. These Southern beau-

ties represented "Yallerhammers." It made a very attractive feature of the Reunion parade and was much enjoyed by the old soldiers and others.

Genl. John H. McDowell as chief marshal, made this feature the only exception to his published order, and Mr. Gilmer has written Genl. McDowell a letter of appreciation, in which he says:

"You will never know the pleasure you gave to me and my little "Yallerhammers" at the Memphis Reunion. But I do wish to express to you as well as I can the appreciation of your kindness in allowing us to participate in this parade of the Old Veterans. I am sure it is an epoch in the lives of these little ones that will never be efaced, and one that in future years they will look to it as one of their hallowed days. Through me the children offer to you the wide open door to all of their nests, and join with me in their daily prayer."

When it was determined to hold a memorial service in honor of the birth of Raphael Semmes, the "Yallerhammers" authorized the invitation committee to draw on them for the expense of that committee, as well as the expense of the orator of the occasion, amounting to \$21.00.

As a compliment to this generosity, their President was given the honor of introducing the orator Capt. Fred S. Ferguson who at one time was the tutor of Mr. Gilmer.

At the meeting in May, this being the last until October, the Treasurer's report was read and ordered spread upon the minutes.

Check to Mrs. McKerrell to cover the expense of invitation committee of the Semmes Memorial.....	\$15 00
Check to Capt. F. S. Ferguson, Orator of the day....	6 00
Check to Haygood for a wagonette for the old Veterans on the day of the parade at the State Reunion .....	10 00
Check to cover the expense of Veteran Jesse G. Mills to Mobile to attend the General Reunion....	6 00
Balance in bank.....	5 00
Total .....	<u>\$41 40</u>

The medal for the child living the nearest to the ideal "Yallerhammer" was awarded to Dorothy Hannon.

## THE YALLERHAMMERS GO TO A CAMP MEETING.

On Thursday night the little "Yallerhammers" took a peep in on their Grand daddies just to see what they did at a Camp meeting. No doubt they had visions of sermons, shoutings, etc etc., and in this they were not disappointed as will be seen later on.

After the business of the camp had been disposed of, Mr. Gilmer briefly reviewed the constitution of the "Yallerhammers" and by it impressed his fellow comrades with the fact that the organization was based along patriotic lines, he then presented the little ones to the Camp.

After words of welcome, which were plainly seen to come from the hearts of these Veterans, Mary Burnett, the treasurer, came forward and standing just by the side of that Venerable and Honorable old "Yallerhammer" Col. John W. A. Sanford, she thus addressed the Veterans:

"To our Honored Sires of Camp Lomax:

We, your Grand children, the little "Yallerhammers," wish this night to say to you, that we have not been unmindful of the pledge we voluntarily made you more than a year ago, a pledge that we would bear the expense of chiseling the names of twenty-six Veterans of Camp Lomax on your Memorial Arch when erected.

We have been informed that the cost per name will be forty cents each, this will bring our pledge up to ten dollars and forty cents.

We are very proud to be able to hand you this night a check to cover this amount.

And now praying that to the remnant of the Veterans of Camp Lomax, there may come many years of sunshine and joy, and at last when the little Cross is chisselled opposite your name and for the last time you have answered the roll call here, it will be but to pass "over the river and rest under the shade of the trees."

And then the little Israelite "in whom there is no guile" (Maxine Mayer) made her plea known in no uncertain tone.

"To the Veterans of Camp Lomax:

We are here tonight to make two requests of your Camp.

The first one is, that you will permit your little "Yallerhammers" to deposit in the base of your Memorial Arch,



their Constitution and other emblems of their order, this to be done if you see fit, at the same time that your exercises of a similar nature are held.

Our second request is, that you as a Camp will use your influence in having passed a resolution that will be introduced at your next State Reunion, looking to the perpetuation of the "Yallerhammers" and of their adoption by the United Confederate Veterans of the State of Alabama.

This latter request is made, because for the remaining years of your lives, we want to live so close to you, that we shall hear from your own lips, the story of the Cross Barred Flag which you so long and so well upheld.

We now offer for you the prayer that is the daily one of every "Yalerhammer."

And now comes the realization of their dreams of a Camp Meeting. Comrade Washburn delivered to them a sermon of love, spoken with deep and intense feeling, commending their purpose, and urging them to be ever mindful of their "Yallerhamer" creed.

And after this the acclaims of Amen and Amen by the whole Camp, was an evidence to them that indeed they had been to a veritable Camp meeting.

On November the 5th, 1910, the question of the enlargement and the perpetuation of the organization, was taken up and discussed at much length.

The plan of organization after discussion as to whether we should place ourselves under the fostering care of one of the several Confederate organizations, was unanimously decided, and with one voice, that it should be the Alabama Division of the United Confederate Veterans.

The President then said that some constitution, embodying the regulation under which the organization should be carried out would be necessary. And said further that such a Constitution containing a few simple rules not hard to understand or difficult to keep, had with the assistance of Dr. Thos. M. Owen, the Director of Archives, been prepared.

This was read and after a few changes adopted.

It was here stated that since they would request to be taken under the wing of the Alabama Division of the U. C. V. they ought to submit through Camp Lomax

No. 151 a resolution, such resolution to contain a statement of our resolution to the Division.

The President then read to them a resolution which he was sure the delegation from Camp Lomax would willingly present. The resolution as follows was then read and adopted:

In the belief that the history of the Confederacy and the Confederate soldier is largely dependent, not only for its vindication, but for its preservation in unsullied purity and truth, upon the present generation and the generations to come, the Alabama Division of the United Confederate Veterans, hails with intense satisfaction and gratification the organization and development of all agencies which have historical and benevolent objects and purposes as the basis of such organizations.

It is not only a pleasure keen and unalloyed, but it is a supreme duty as well, to encourage and foster such organizations, The Ladies Memorial Association, The United Daughter of the Confederacy, the United Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Children of the Confederacy, and Confederate Memorial societies everywhere have the most cordial and enthusiastic commendation from this Division, and of every Camp composing it.

One of the newest and youngest of these organizations bears the historic name by which the Confederate soldiers of this State were known during that great struggle which set a new example of courage and heroism and patriotic endeavor for the world. In the campaigns, battles, sieges, and fortunes of the great Confederate war, soldiers from Alabama, officers and privates bore a conspicuous and honorable part, and the name "YALLERHAMMER" is immortally associated with them. The organization which bears this honored name therefore, not only commends itself because of the objects for which its members are bound together, but also because of its very name. The appeal presented in their behalf by their founder, Comrade Morgan Smith Gilmer, of Camp Lomax No. 151, United Confederate Veterans, touches us deeply, and in order to show that appreciation which we feel, and in order to afford a basis of affiliation with us by the junior organization.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Alabama Division of the

United Confederate Veterans, in regular annual Reunion assembled.

1. That the "YALLERHAMMERS" as an organization, under its Constitution or such other altered and amended constitution not in conflict with the objects and purposes of the United Confederate Veterans, which it may adopt, and for the purpose and with the activities therein projected, is hereby approved, and is taken into organic relation with the Alabama Division of the United Confederate Veterans, in the manner hereinafter set forth.

2. That a Committee of three members of this Division be named, of which Comrade Morgan S. Gilmer shall always be Chairman, by virtue of his position as founder, whose duty it shall be to have general supervision and control of the organization. The committee is authorized to adopt rules for its government, and for the government of the "YALLERHAMMERS" consistent with the constitution thereof, and otherwise have all necessary general control, and direct the work of the organization.

3. That the second and third members of this Committee shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Division by a VIVA VOCE vote.

4. That the several Division officers, Camps and members of the Confederation, pledge themselves to aid in the development and the extension of the "YALLERHAMMERS," and they all do hold themselves in readiness to do every thing possible to enable these patriotic youthful bands to do their noble and patriotic work.

The above resolution was introduced on the 23rd day of November, 1910, by Comrade W. W. Screws of Camp Lomax No. 151, at the annual Reunion of the Alabama Division of the United Confederate Veterans, held in Birmingham, Ala., on the 22nd and 23rd day of November, 1910, and was adopted by a unanimous vote.

After the adoption of the above resolution, Annie Holton Spann was selected to return our thanks to Camp Lomax for the same.

To every member of Camp Lomax, one and all, we are here this night to thank you for keeping that promise made us, to use your influence in having us sheltered under the wing of the United Confederate Veteran.

We now feel that indeed you are our own dear Grand

daddies, and that we are *sure enough* little "YALLER-HAMMERS."

And now that we are all in the same "YALLERHAMMER" family, and as you are growing older and your steps are slower, and the burden of life is bearing heavier, remember that our little feet will do your bidding, and our little shoulders will share your burdens, and whenever the cry of the old "YALLERHAMMER" is heard the little "YALLERHAMMER" will answer "here are we, ready and willing to do your every wish."

And when the last members of Camp Lomax are to be given the solemn rites of burial, and there are none left to give them, we promise you that it shall be our sacred duty to give to them that same ritual service of Camp Lomax that you gave to those who had gone before.

We also thank you for allowing us to place our box of treasures in the base of your Memorial Arch, and in your memory we there placed with them, the Flag which you loved so well, and there it is to remain until the Resurrection morn to greet you who wore the Grey when you awake from your sleep on Oak Woods Hill.

#### LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF CAMP LOMAX MEMORIAL ARCH.

As the petition of the "YALLERHAMMERS" had been granted by their Grand daddies for this privelege, promptly at half past three o'clock Sunday evening found them banked against their two "YALLERHAMMER" flags, held by Allen and Jordan Reynolds, with little Alice Chapman holding the bird in the center.

They had no sooner thus formed, when the Masons in a body headed by Grand Master Lawrence Lee, took their position around the base of the Arch. After their usual impressive ceremony, the Grand Master beckoned to the "YALLERHAMMERS" to come forward and deposit their treasures in the box prepared for them.

There being quite a number of these little ones, and wishing that every one should have a part in this ceremony, it was decided that as each name was called, they would come forward and dropping their feather in the box, at the same time the President would announce that this represented some special feature of their Constitution.

After this came the depositing of the Constitution as a whole, the Badge of Camp Lomax, the minutes of their last meeting, their bank book with the checks expended by them, not one dollar of which had been used for their personal benefit. Then the "YALLERHAMMER" wing worn by Mrs. Tennant Lomax in honor of the "YALLERHAMMERS" on her visit to the Reunion last held in Richmond, Va.

And then last of all, the Cross Barred Flag of the South. The only flag born of white parents, baptized in the blood of white men, furled on the field of Appomattox, we now bury Thee in the grave of a Caucasian.

Then the Masons again assuming charge, with the three little girls, Theodosia Lee, Katherine Powell, and May Steiner assisting, they put on the elements of consecration, Oil, Wine and Water.

After this was done, our treasure box was cemented over to await the Resurrection morn, there to testify unto the righteousness of the "YALLERHAMMERS" cause. Then all of the flock gathered around the Masonic body and with uplifted faces invoked the blessing of the Most High God upon them in the language of their daily prayer.

On the night of the 23rd day of December, 1910, a telephone call summoned the President of the "YALLERHAMMERS" and he was informed that the Montgomery Light and Water Power Co. had witnessed the working of the "YALLERHAMMER" organization and had therefore decided to allow them the privilege of doing a labor of love for them.

Their offer was this: They would give \$10.00 each to 20 old Veterans—not those who were in the poor house—but to those in moderate circumstances who would appreciate this as a Christmas gift, and then in the name of the "YALLERHAMMERS" would credit off whatever amount might be due that Company by the Members of Camp Lomax on the first day of January, 1911.

As there was 100 of these this amounted to the sum of \$1132.85.

On Christmas day the "YALLERHAMMERS" made the distribution among the old soldiers.

THE "YALLERHAMMERS" RETURN THANKS TO  
THE MONTGOMERY LIGHT AND WATER  
POWER COMPANY.

On Friday the 6th of January, 1911, the "YALLERHAMMERS" went in a body to the office of the Montgomery Light & Water Power Co. On their arrival they were ushered into the office of the General Manager, Mr. Chas. E. White, who greeted them very warmly, as did also Maj. R. E. Steiner. After these greetings Mr. Gilmer spoke as follows:

"This is an occasion that comes not often in ones life time, and in all my life to come it will ever be remembered as one of my hallowed days.

To you Mr. White and to you Maj. Steiner, I am sure that I shall be unequal to the task of getting you to understand how deeply grateful I am for this honor you have conferred upon me, in using me as the representative of this little bunch of children to scatter your seeds of kindness along the pathway of these men who are now in the sere and yellow leaf of life "seeds that are to come up and blossom in this life to make it the brighter and the happier.

Let me first thank you for this honor, an honor that I take not unto myself, but it is a reflex honor from these little ones, and how fitting it was in your company to select them, whom the lowly Nazarine once declared to be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, and now on this his natal day, to take these tiny ideals of his Kingdom, and use them in the name of "sweet charity" is indeed a beautiful tribute to them.

These little ones had already heard the cry "the Macedonian cry to come over and help them, coming from some of their "YALLERHAMMER" Grand daddies, and how their hearts bounded with joy when they realized that the full fruition of all their hopes and dreams had come to pass, and now they could wave the answer back to them, by the grace of God we are coming.

And now they are speeding from nest to nest on their mission of joy, stopping at each of these nests binding fast your substantial lining of tribute with their silken threads of love.

And to see these old men, who in the years that are past faced the shrieking shell and the whistling minnie without a tremor, but now the glint in the eye is gone out, and in its stead comes the glistening tear. The lips and throats that once gave out that famous Rebel Yell are silent this evening, for that great heart of theirs has come swelling up into their throats shutting off all speech, and with bared head and uplifted hands stretched out over their Grand Children, out of their hearts came the prayer "God bless the YALLERHAMMERS and the Montgomery Light and Water Power Company."

I now wish to thank you in the name of the United Confederate Veteran, for what to my knowledge is the first public recognition of him, irrespective of station or condition in life, but have honored him simply because he was a Confederate States Soldier.

And I assure you gentlemen that their appreciation is not an effervescent one, but one that will last as long as they shall be allowed to live, for if there is one dominant feature of these old "YALLERHAMMERS" it is to be ever loyal to their friends.

At the request of the "YALLERHAMMERS" Mr. Frank Stollenwerck, Jr., had introduced a bill, exempting all soldiers over 64 years of age from the anti-pass law, whereupon they sent the following letter to each Senator, and to each Representative:

"To the Members of the Senate and Legislature of the State of Alabama:

We, the little "YALLERHAMMERS" whose names appear on the opposite of this page, are the grand children of the men who fifty years ago answered the call of Alabama to beat back the oppressor from the borders of our beloved South land.

And as their grand children we have purposed in our hearts to do all that we can to make the evening of the lives of these our Grand daddies the very brightest and best possible.

Believing that the amendment offered by Mr. Frank Stollenwerck, Jr., exempting these Alabama Veterans from the anti-pass law, will go a long way to this end, we therefore respectfully ask that you give your vote and influence in making this a law.

This we ask, not alone that he may (if the railroads see fit) once more to visit those places of long ago, now so dear to him, and to once more meet face to face his comrades, and there tell over the story of that great struggle for a young nation's life, but also let it be a token of appreciation by the State of Alabama for her sons who in that four years of fighting, freezing and starving were makers of history, history that as long as Alabama shall bring forth brave men and true women, their lisping children shall be taught to know that for all that was true, noble and brave, this was the Alabama 'YALLERHAMMER.'

Again asking your support of this bill, we are

Very respectfully your very obedient children, the  
YALLERHAMMERS."

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—This bill by an overwhelming vote was passed but vetoed by the Governor (the son of a "YALLERHAMMER") only allowing those who were on the pension roll of the State of Alabama or of the *UNITED STATES* to become the beneficiaries of the law.

#### "THE YALLERHAMMERS AND WHAT THEY DO"—

Montgomery Evening Times.

"One afternoon last week there was a wonderful chirping and fluttering of yellow wings, as a flock of exquisite little 'YALLERHAMMERS' settled in their nest in a certain room in the Court House.

It developed that these birdies of the keen eye and tender heart had found a sick Veteran at the poor house in deep distress, lacking every comfort to which the Veterans are entitled.

For a moment they flew around in bewildered dismay, then winging their flight straight for the 'house of justice' descended upon it with a whirl of sweet wings and voices that stopped all other business for the moment, these birdies chirped out their distressing little story into the sympathetic ears of a man, a man who cannot fly for he is a lame man. Yet this lame man leads these birdies into flights down the lanes where the lame, the halt, and the blind and the suffering are to be found and they are ministered unto.



Down the street to the shops, went the fluttering chirping little flock, lovingly following their lame leader who led so unerringly to all things good and pure.

A nice iron bed, soft mattress, clean comfortable covering and suitable clothing for the poor Veterans body were obtained (from their own nest egg of saving) and a wagon loaded with these things plus a basket of fruit and dainties ~~appetite~~, and a committee from the flock fluttered along with the wagon to see that it went aright.

Then a letter was penned—perhaps with a quill from a ‘Yallerhammers’ wing who knows—to the very best and most vigilant worker among all the sweet charitable women of this town, to ask her that she might help them to look after this poor old man, and to see that he was kept comfortable.

God bless this little flock of birdies and their lame leader, “who yet walketh uprightly in paths of righteousness.”

The “Yallerhammers” last appearance was at the Reunion held in Little Rock, Ark., in the parade of the old Veterans on the last day of that Reunion.

Though a long way for these little birds to fly away from their home nest, yet when once they alighted in that city, they were made to feel that these people must have “looked out of the Ark and saw” us coming, for every thing was found safe and comfortable for them. And the reception given them and the ovation accorded unto them was an evidence of the appreciation not alone of the Veterans but of the whole people who saw that parade.

From the moment that they entered the line of parade until the end of it they were greeted with the plaudits of all, from the side walks to the very house tops could be heard, “Yallerhammers, Yallerhammers, Hooray for the Yallerhammers, God bless the Yallerhammers.” This indeed was very gratifying to them, but at the same time it made them to realize that their standard of living was a high one and their Grand daddies expected them to live up to it.

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 1, 1911.

#### GENERAL ORDER

##### No. 7.

1. In accordance with Resolution adopted by the Convention of the Alabama Division of the United Confed-

drop of water to the wounded and dying enemy, and now they were going to do all that money and care could do to make the last days of a Veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic comfortable

erate Veterans, held in Birmingham, Nov. 21, 1910, the "YALLARHAMMERS" are hereby incorporated as an Auxiliary Corps of the Alabama Division of the United Confederate Veterans.

2. The official designation of this Corps in future will be, Morgan Gilmer's Corps of YALLERHAMMERS."

By command of

Major Genl. GEO. P. HARRISON,  
HARVEY E. JONES,  
Adjutant General & Chief of Staff.



# OFFICERS OF THE STATE ORGANIZATION OF "THE YALLERHAMMERS" OF THE STATE OF ALABAMA SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

---

Morgan S. Gilmer, Life Chairman  
John. B. Fuller  
Raphael Semmes

Annie Hollon Spann, President, Montgomery  
Sybil Nunnelee, 1st Vice-President, Centerville  
Lottie May Bose, 2nd Vice-President, Mobile  
Torrance Reed, 3rd Vice-President, Birmingham  
Celia Stratford, Secretary, Montgomery  
Jane Kealhofer, Treasurer, Montgomery  
Octavia Holt, Recorder, Montgomery

## Montgomery County Chapter Officers

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Morgan S. Gilmer, Life President  
Maxine Mayer, 1st Vice-President  
May Steiner, 2nd Vice-President  
Octavia Holt, Secretary  
Mary Burnette, Treasurer  
Helen Thomas, Historian  
Thos. Cohoon, Color Bearer

## Members Montgomery County Chapter

### HONORARY

---

Gen. Geo. P. Harrison, Opelika, Ala.  
Mrs. Morgan S. Gilmer, Montgomery  
Mrs. W. A. Gause, Memphis, Tenn.  
Mrs. Mary Winn, Memphis, Tenn.  
Mr. William M. Stoddard, Little Rock, Ark.

1 Marjore Allen	10 Louise Johnson	19 May Steiner
2 Mary Burnette	11 Jane Kealhofer	20 Celia Stratford
3 Alace Chapman	12 Theodosia Lee	21 Annie Terry
4 Thos. Cohoon	13 Maxine Mayer	22 Edward Terry
5 Willis Cohoon	14 Annie Nelson	33 Helen Thomas
6 Warren Dent	15 Katherine Powell	24 Annie Whaley
7 Mary Gilchrist	16 Allen Reynolds	25 James D. Wade
8 Berta Holt	17 Jordan Reynolds	26 Eva Wadsworth
9 Octavia Holt	18 Annie Spann	

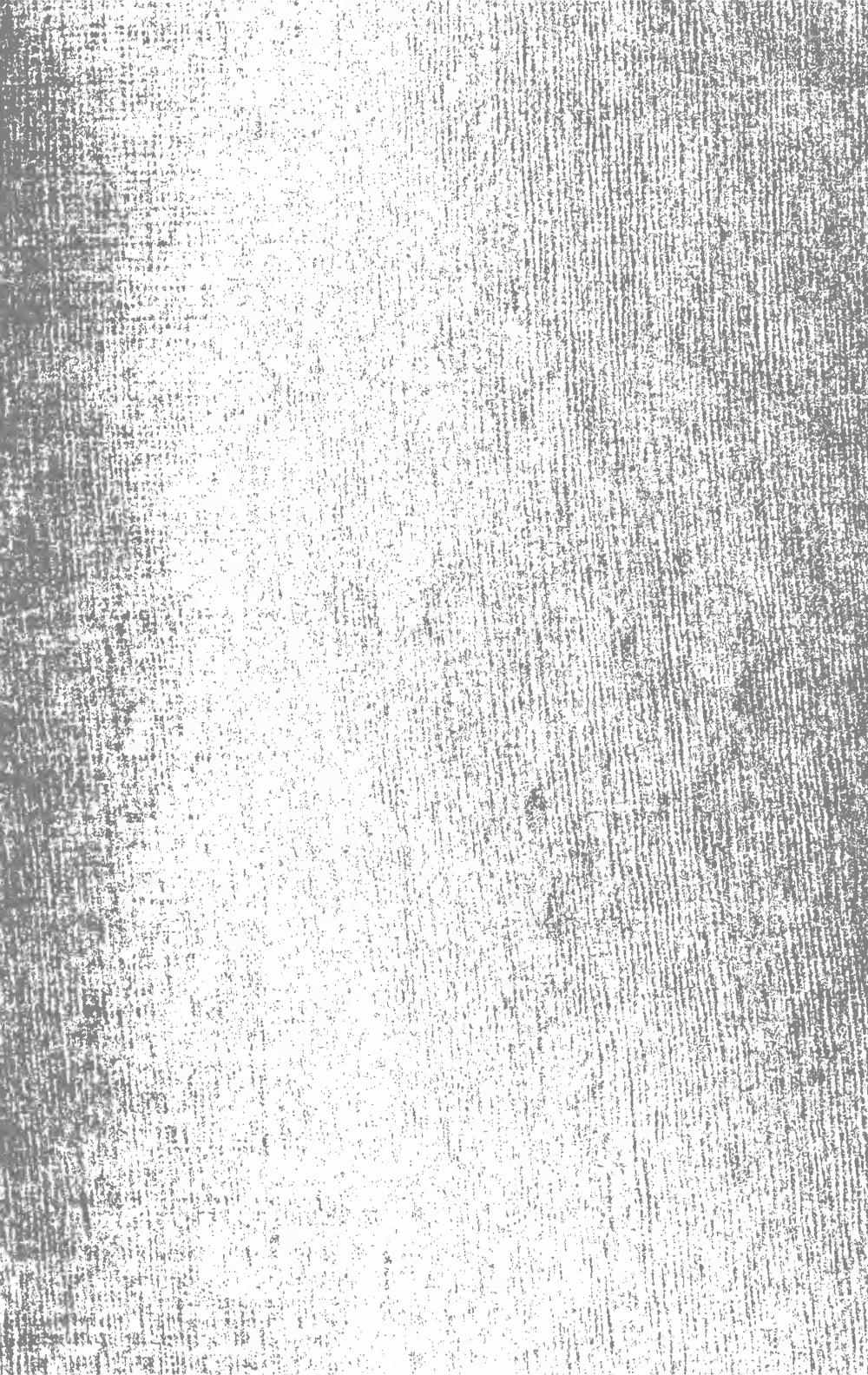
## President's Report for Past Twelve Months

Attendance and interest— Good  
Amount expended for Historical and Memorial purposes \$35.40  
Amount expended directly for the United Confederate Veteran \$1,138.50  
Total: One Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy-three Dollars and Ninety Cents

# A YELLOW HAMMERS NEST



**NAMES IN THE PICTURE**—1 James Wade, 2 Louis Whitfield, 3 Octavia Holt, 4 Louise Johnson, 5 Celia Stratford, 6 Annie Spann, 7 Maxine Nayer, 8 Dorothy Hannon, 9 Thomas Cohoon, 10 William Crist, 11 Edward Terry, 12 Jordan Reynolds, 13 Alice Chapman, 14 Berta Holt, 15 Pitt Manor, 16 Warren Dent, 17 Morgan S. Gilmer, 18 May Steiner, 19 Brooks Flowers, 20 Allen Reynolds, 21 Erlene Minderhout, 22 Benton Holt.



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